

2.4 Proposed Demolition Range, YTA

USAG-AK has proposed to construct a demolition range in the Yukon Training Area. The demolition range will consist of an access road, a 15.5 acre hardened pad and a series of berms within the hardened pad to separate the different demolition stations (Figure 5). An existing 1800 meter long trail will be improved to a 24ft wide, all-season road. A small existing clearing at the range location will be upgraded to a hardened pad with berms. The purpose of this project is to provide additional locations for demolition-type training within the Yukon Training Area. The proposed project is located on map quadrangle XBD C6 at: T3S, R5W, Sections 4 and 9; and T2S, R5E, Section 33.

Survey and Field Methods

In July 2005 the proposed demolition range and access road project area was pedestrian surveyed by a crew of four to five archaeologists employed by the Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML, Colorado State University).

Parallel pedestrian transects spaced at 20 meters or less were walked in all areas that were not deemed too wet or too steep ($>40^\circ$) to contain cultural material. Systematic sub-surface testing was undertaken in areas determined to be high probability (e.g., lake margins, ridges, benches adjacent to steeper slopes) during initial review of the proposed project area, and as determined by the supervising archaeologist and field crew leader based on survey findings. In addition to pedestrian transects, 40cm x 40cm shovel tests were excavated in the project area. All excavated materials were screened through $\frac{1}{4}$ " hardware cloth. None of the shovel tests excavated contained any cultural material.

An area larger than the proposed project footprint was surveyed and shovel tested. Site XBD-00095 was also reinvestigated (see below) as part of this project. No cultural materials were identified or recovered during the field inventory.

Cultural Resources

There is one known site in the vicinity of the proposed project. This site has been determined to be outside of the project area.

XBD-00095

Latitude:

Longitude: NAD 27)

Determination: Not Eligible

This site consists of two grey chert flakes, one a biface thinning flake, found on the disturbed surface of a roadcut in an old quarry pit. This site was found during survey in 1979 and is located north of Quarry Road. Attempts were made to relocate this site in the summers of 2002 and 2005. Pedestrian reconnaissance and shovel testing was undertaken at the specific location noted in the 1979 survey report, as well as in the general vicinity of the originally reported site location. The roadbed and old quarry are extant, but no additional cultural materials were found either in 2002 or 2005. This site lies outside the proposed area of potential effect for the proposed demolition range and access road. UTM coordinates for the site are: Zone 6,
(WGS 84).

Findings

Pedestrian survey and shovel testing produced a total of only two surface artifacts. This finding suggests that XMH-00095 is a small, localized occurrence. The paucity of cultural material indicates that this site does not contain additional information that is important to our understanding of the prehistory or history of the region and is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

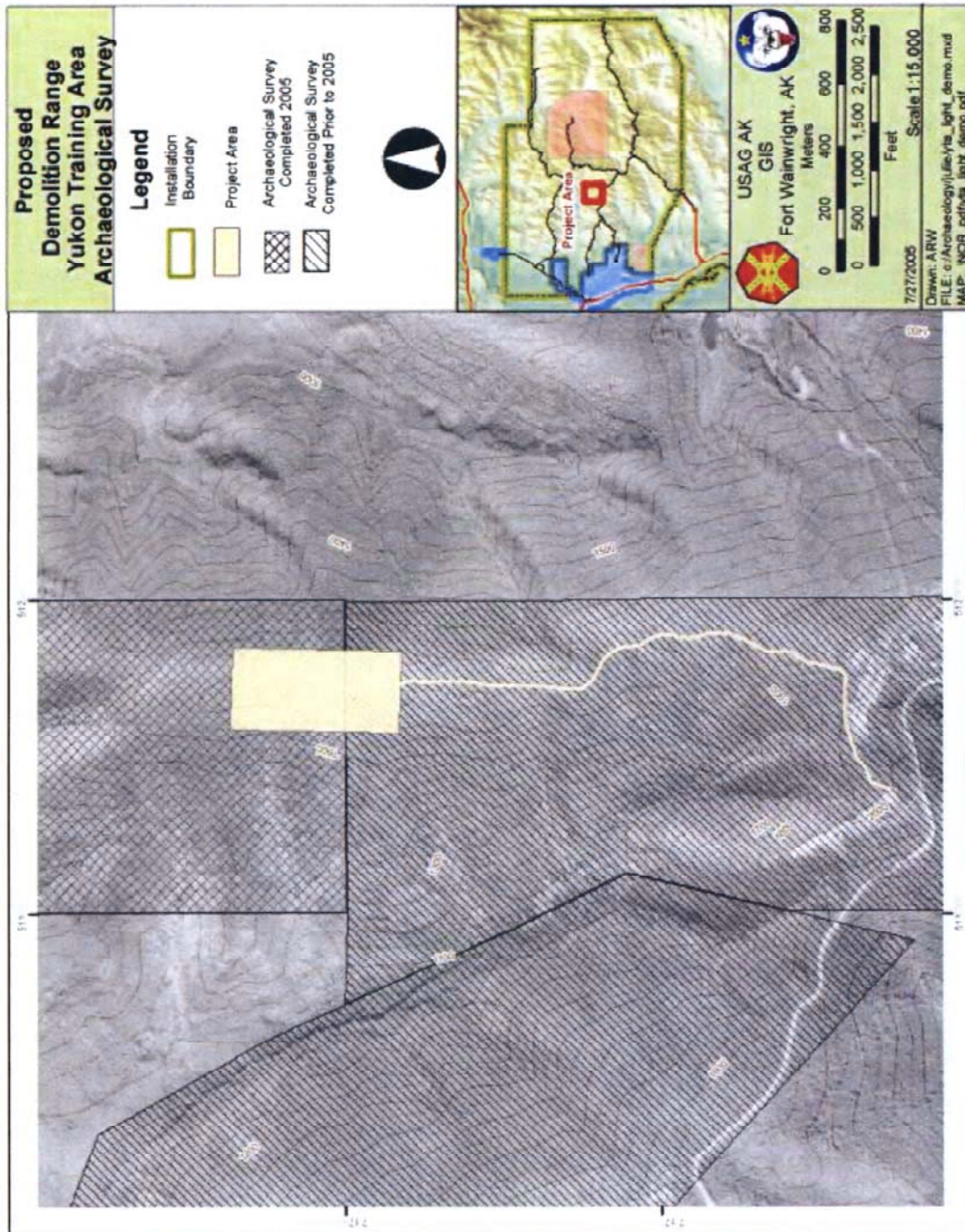


Figure 5. Location of proposed demolition range, YTA

Results

No cultural resources were identified within the demolition range and access road project area. Site XBD-00095 is located outside of the proposed project area and has been determined not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. All other previously-recorded archaeological sites and historic properties in the Yukon Training USAG-AK determined that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project.